

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03881 101547Z

55

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 072663

R 101440Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4184

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3011 AND PREVIOUS

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS FINALLY AGREED ON ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND HAS STARTED WORK ON DEVELOPING A NEW ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE 1979 ELECTION. THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE PREDICTING THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL BE A FAILURE. AT THIS POINT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE IN ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 31, 1975 CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL. AT THE SAME TIME HE ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 1979. THE TASKS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL WERE ANNOUNCED AS DEVELOPING AN ELECTORAL LAW TO BE USED TO GOVERN THE 1979 ELECTION AND TO GIVE ADVISE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

2. IN EARLY 1976 THE TASK OF SETTING UP THE ADVISORY COUNCIL WAS UNDERTAKEN BY MELGAR. VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS OF HONDURANS WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT THEIR DESIRE TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNCIL. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF CONSTANT INTERVIEWS ALMOST ALL SECTORS AGREED TO SEND SELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03881 101547Z

PARTIES TOGETHER WITH COHEP (COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE) REFUSED

TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE THEY SAID THAT THEIR POINTS OF VIEW WOULD BE  
OUTVOTED IN A BODY WHICH DID NOT TRULY REFLECT HONDURAN SOCIETY.

3. FINALLY, IN EARLY AUGUST THE COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO AGREE ON ITS  
INTERNAL REGULATIONS FOR ORGANIZATION AND DEBATE. THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COUNCIL, LT. COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA (ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF),  
NAMED THE FOLLOWING THREE BASIC COMMITTEES: THE POLITICAL AND  
JURIDICAL COMMITTEE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE  
CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. THE POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL  
COMMITTEE IS NOW STUDYING VARIOUS DRAFT PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE  
FORMULATION OF THE ELECTORAL LAW.

4. BEGIN COMMENT. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS TAKEN  
A LONG TIME BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES,  
AND THE NATURAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SETTING UP SUCH A BODY  
IN A MILITARY-RULED SOCIETY. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, THE PARTIES  
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE PREDICTING THAT IT WILL BE NOTHING MORE  
THAN A DEBATING SOCIETY WITH NO POWER TO DO OTHER THAN SUGGEST  
MEASURES THAT CAN AND WILL BE IGNORED BY THE GOVERNMENT. AT THIS  
POINT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY  
HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE. END COMMENT.  
BARTCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, ELECTION LAW, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TEGUCI03881  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760307-1157  
**From:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgkf.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEGUCIGALPA 3011  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL  
**TAGS:** PINT, HO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006